

ernor Swann, enclosing copies of the correspondence (which has already been published) between the Governor and President Johnson relative to the invitation extended by the Convention to the President to visit this city on his return from his Eastern trip. The Governor further informs the Convention that if the President is unavoidably detained beyond the 28th inst., he will be notified by telegraph in time to allow for the necessary arrangements to receive him.

The report of the committee on the legislative department was then taken up.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were read and passed over without amendment.

Section 7 was read as follows:

"No minister or preacher of the gospel, or teacher of any religious creed or denomination, and no person holding any civil office of profit or trust under this State, except justices of the peace, shall be eligible as Senator or delegate."

Mr. Gill moved to strike out all down to the word "and," inclusive. Mr. G. had all through his life been opposed to any invidious distinctions. It was probable that but few ministers of the gospel would ever be candidates for political offices, but the section also excluded all teachers of religious creeds or denominations. There were many citizens who attended to their regular business during the week, and on Sundays acted as teachers of religious creeds.

Mr. Dent was opposed to opening the legislative doors to clergymen. Our late troubles were due to a large extent to the admission of this class into political life.

Mr. Merryman was in favor of the amendment, and saw no reason why this class of our citizens should be excluded from these privileges. Their admission into legislative halls might have the effect to purify the atmosphere of politics. If the argument of the gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. Dent,) was carried out, no one should be eligible to legislative honors except those who were specially educated with reference to such position.